



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Remarks by Council President Steve Silverman at September 11, 2002 Commemoration in Rockville

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Americans of my parents' generation remember where they were when they heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor. December 7, said Franklin Roosevelt, "was a day that will live in infamy." September 11 was our generation's day that will live in infamy – and it is still startlingly fresh in our minds where we were and what we thought and how we felt at that moment when we first heard the news.

There is a major difference between the two, however. Hawaii was far, far away -- Pearl Harbor an obscure navy base. There was no CNN. There was, in fact, no television at all. And the American people had no idea how truly devastating the attack was in terms of ships, planes, and servicepeople lost until fully one year later, when an official report was released.

But on September 11 we knew it all in an instant – and saw it replayed over and over and over again.

We shivered at the horror of it all.

We marveled at the heroism of those who put their own bodies on the line – some of whom survived and some of whom did not.

We wept over our morning paper as we read of the sudden loss of so many parents and children, grandparents and friends.

We commended those who left us to the mercy of an almighty God and thanked that same God that our families were spared being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

And, perhaps, as we hugged our kids and our spouses, we thought of our own mortality and how important it is to count for something bigger than ourselves in the time given to us.

We were reminded once more that there is evil in the world.

And we have resolved -- as a County, a state, a nation, a world -- that those who take the life of innocents must be held accountable for these monstrous acts. From our loss and our love must flow intelligent, determined resolve to right the wrong that has been done -- motivated not by hate but by our love of justice.

Today, we remember those who lost their lives and reach once more to their families, here in Montgomery County and beyond.

Ted Moy of Silver Spring was a civilian employed at the Pentagon. He was 48 years old -- the same age I am. He was active in his church, Spencerville Seventh-Day Adventist.

He loved bowling. He loved his country. Most of all, he loved his wife Madeline and his two kids, Jessica and Daniel. And they loved him back. On September 11, it was Ted Moy. It could have been any one of us.

There's a great big hole in the lives of Madeline, Jessica, and Daniel where Ted Moy used to be.

In truth, there is a great big hole in all of our lives.

But, as Eleanor Roosevelt once said: "They are not dead who live in lives they left behind. In those whom they have blessed they live a life again."

Also, on this solemn day, we remember the brave police, fire, and rescue workers who stepped into the breach. We are reminded that greater love hath no man, or woman, than they lay down their lives for their friends or, in this case, total strangers. The soul is indeed known by its acts -- as the sacrifices of so many on September 11 and during the aftermath showed so well.

On a day when words are totally inadequate beside what each and every person here is feeling in our hearts, let us resolve never to forget our own generation's day in infamy.

May we take heart and example from those whose courage and self-sacrifice were on display for the whole world to see. May we comfort the afflicted. May we remember those departed for the mark they left behind in this world.

And may we all stand together shoulder-to-shoulder, prepared for whatever is yet to come and determined that our children and our children's children will never again have to suffer the likes of December 7 and September 11 in their lifetimes.

Thank you.